

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 15 with the following paragraph.

The ladder or composition of the invention can be detectably labeled by staining with ethidium bromide or SYBR green ([2-[N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-N-propylamino]-4-[2,3-dihydro-3-methyl-(benzo-1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-methylidene]-1-phenyl-quinolinium][+]), or by end-labeling using standard methods known in the art. A particular advantage of the double stranded ladder or composition (e.g., DNA) of the present invention is the presence of a sticky end which comprises all four nucleotides as a result of the restriction digest, allowing use of any labeled nucleotide, A, C, T, G, for the purpose of detectably labeling the ladder or composition bands. Thus, another aspect of the invention relates to the ladder or composition of the present invention which is detectably labeled with a stain or other detectable label. Labels suitable for detectably labeling the ladder or composition of the invention include, but are not limited to, radiolabels (e.g., ³²P, ¹⁴C, ³H and the like), fluorescent labels (e.g., fluorescein, rhodamine, phycocyanin, and the like) and chemiluminescent labels (e.g., using the PHOTO-GENE or ACES chemiluminescence systems, available commercially from Life Technologies, Inc. Rockville, MD).